

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (Withdrawn).

C22 7. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a subject in need of treatment or prevention of ~~a neurodegenerative disease~~ Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or MCI, comprising:

obtaining a biological sample having peripheral blood cells from said subject, said sample having ~~polynucleotides or~~ protein;

providing a probe, ~~said probe being selected from the group consisting of a probe~~ that interacts with a wild type or mutant iron regulatory protein 2 (IRP-2) protein (SEQ ID NO:18) and ~~a probe that interacts with a polynucleotide encoding a wild type or mutant IRP-2 protein;~~

contacting the biological sample with the probe under conditions that allow the probe to interact with the ~~polynucleotide or~~ protein in the biological sample;

detecting the amount of probe that interacts with the ~~polynucleotide or~~ protein in the biological sample; and

identifying the subject as a subject in need of treatment or prevention of a ~~neurodegenerative disease~~ Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or MCI, by determining the presence ~~or absence of the probe with the polynucleotide or protein in the biological sample~~ of an amount significantly greater than that identified in a control sample.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the probe is selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid, a protein, and a peptidomimetic.

9. **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the detection of the amount of probe that interacts with the ~~polynucleotide or~~ protein comprises use of a technique selected from the group consisting of fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACs), immunoprecipitation, Western blot, immunochromatography, antibody staining, and a hybridization assay.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Withdrawn)

Claims 12-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Withdrawn)

Appl. No. : 09/924,396
Filed : 8/6/2001

*Out
C22*

20. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the determination of whether the probe interacts with the polynucleotide or protein in the biological samples identifies the subject as a subject in need of treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or MCI.
